

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 8, and 10-15 have been canceled. Claims 16 and 19 has been amended. Claims 1-7, 19, and 21-24 have been allowed. Claims 1-8, 16, 19 and 21-24 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 8, 10, 11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US Patent No. 6,005,923), Claims 8 and 11 through 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gish (US patent No. 5,724,554).

Claims 8-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 19 has been amended to comply with formality.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS:

As mentioned above, at page 5 of the Office Action, claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8, 11, 12, and 13 are canceled and the limitations thereof have been incorporated into independent claim 16. Thus, reconsideration of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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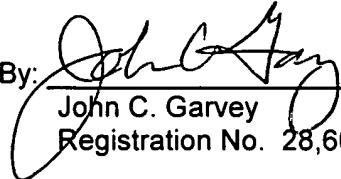
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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